

Planning Ahead...

What's in store for your neighborhood in the coming year? Find out below!

- Variety Day Care expansion on D Street and Washington Avenue.
- A new 10,000 square foot Early Childhood Development Center on Mojave and Harris is planned.
- A 14,000 square foot Community Health Center will be built, complete with a 4,000 square foot dental clinic, in the Las Vegas Enterprise Park.
- A new 7,000 square foot playground is planned at the M.A.S.H. Crisis Intervention Center on North Main.



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Neighborhood Services Department
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FOUNDATIONS

BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE 21ST CENTURY

SUMMER 1998

Neighborhood Development Division

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West Las Vegas seniors attend the grand opening of the Doolittle Senior Center.

West Las Vegas debuts new senior center

The City of Las Vegas celebrated the grand opening of the Doolittle Senior Center in the Mardi-Gras tradition on August 10th. City, county and state dignitaries were on hand as the City of Las Vegas unveiled its newest community addition. The center is located at 1950 North J Street at West Lake Mead Boulevard. The development of this renovated facility was initiated by City Councilman Gary Reese (Ward 3), who recognized the need for special services for seniors in this area.

With the support of the Mayor and City Council, this project has more than doubled its size to 7,800 square feet and will include amenities such as a multipurpose room, a kitchen, a TV room, computer facilities, conference rooms, a performing arts stage and exercise room.

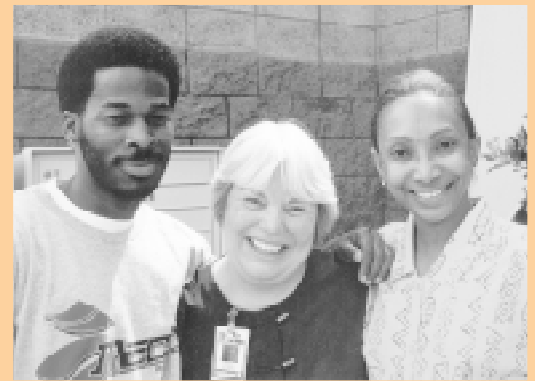
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Business Incubator takes off

New Program Caters to Start-Up Businesses

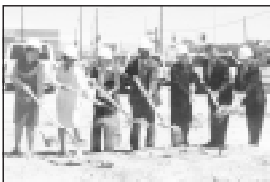
On March 2nd of this year, the City of Las Vegas, Nevada opened its "Incubator" program in the recently rebuilt Las Vegas Business Center, the first in the State of Nevada. The program, located at 1951 Stella Lake Street, off of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Lake Mead Boulevard, is managed by City employees. This incubator program was established by the City to provide a safe, supportive environment to in-

Continued on page 5



Las Vegas Business Center Manager Peggy Proestos (center) with incubator tenants Kyle Heckard (left) and Janice Carter (right).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**St. Vincent
HELP
Breaks
Ground**

See Page 2



**Revitalizing
Vegas
Heights**

See Page 3



**New City
Manager
Settles In**

See Page 2

St. Vincent Transitional Housing Development breaks ground

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada and HELP USA hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on May 28th for their St. Vincent HELP transitional housing development. The development will offer housing and services to

assist individuals in their move from homelessness to permanent housing and from welfare to employment.

The City of Las Vegas was instrumental in this project, granting the housing development over \$675,000 since 1997.

St. Vincent HELP will provide tran-



City, county, state and HUD officials break ground for St. Vincent HELP.

sitional housing to 120 homeless adults as they enter the workforce and eventually seek permanent housing. Services will include job training and readiness programs, counseling and case management, healthcare classes and permanent housing placement. ■

New City Manager settles in

Virginia Valentine, Las Vegas' new City Manager, began her new position on Monday, June 29th.

Ms. Valentine is a seventeen year resident of Las Vegas. She holds a degree in engineering from the University of Idaho, and until her appointment, served as a Senior Vice President for Post,



Valentine

Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, a local engineering firm. She also served as the chief engineer and general manager of the Clark County Regional Flood Control

District from 1986 until 1993.

She chairs the National Infrastructure Policy Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers; serves as a member of the Mayor's Growth Advisory Panel; is a member of the Clark County Planning Commission; sits on the Board of Directors of the Nevada Taxpayers Association; and is active in a number of community organizations.

This dynamic individual also lists running as a long time passion. She routinely completes marathons and boasts a 7-minute mile.

Asked about her impressive performance both in and out of the office, she says, "I just enjoy the challenge."

The Neighborhood Development Division, as well as the City of Las Vegas, are excited about our new addition, and welcome Ms. Valentine aboard. ■

HUD Take Ten

Take ten minutes, hours, weeks, or months to help homeless people obtain housing, jobs, health care and other services:



- Become an advocate for local affordable housing efforts
- Volunteer your time and skills
- Support local assistance fundraising campaigns
- Refer individuals to appropriate housing or service providers, if available
- Help homeless people find good jobs
- Donate to your local food bank
- Join a mentoring program
- Tutor homeless children or adults
- Pay a month's rent or security deposit on behalf of a homeless person
- Tell others to "take ten!"

To Help Homeless People, Call 1-800-HUD-1010

(8 a.m. - 8 p.m. EST)

Provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ■

Southern Nevada

Empowerment Zone



President announces round II of the Empowerment Zone/ Enterprise Community Program

In late March, 1998 the Clinton Administration sent legislation to Congress which requests funding to establish twenty Empowerment Zones (15 urban, 5 rural) across the United States in late 1998. Each Empowerment Zone would receive \$100 million in Social Service Block Grant funds over a 10-year period, in addition to \$130 - \$230 million in lower interest funding through tax exempt bonds and other tax incentives, including Section 179 Business Tax Deductions, Environmental Cleanup Cost Deductions, Welfare-to-Work Tax Credits, Qualified Zone Academy Bonds and Work Opportunity Tax Credits.

Clark County and the Cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas have entered into an Interlocal Agreement for the preparation of the SNEZ Strategic Plan and official designation proposal which will be submitted to HUD on 9 October 1998. The State of Nevada will also be a participant in the preparation of the Strategic Plan. The targeted area for designation of the Empowerment Zone will be a portion of the central core of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area, which will include:

- A majority (90%) of census tracts with poverty rates above 25%

- Census Tracts exhibiting distress, including pervasive poverty, high unemployment and urban deterioration
- No more than 20 square miles, and potentially up to 2,000 acres targeted for employment development.

A key element of the SNEZ proposal will be a Strategic Plan that includes the following eight components:

- Vision and Values
- Community Assessment
- Assessment of Problems and Opportunities
- Resource Analysis
- Goals
- Implementation Plan
 - Projects and Programs
 - Tax Incentive Utilization Plan
 - Developable Sites Plan
 - Governance Plan
- Strategic Planning Process Documentation

• Documentation of Commitments

Strong community participation is an essential ingredient in the preparation of the Empowerment Zone Strategic Plan and proposal. This will be accomplished through community workshops, focus groups and interviews of key community resources. ■

SNEZ Focus Groups Established

The Southern Nevada Empowerment Zone sponsors have established four Focus Groups to work with County and City Staff, and the Consultant Team, to help prepare the SNEZ Strategic Plan and assist in identifying implementation resources. The Focus Groups include Economic Development/Job Creation, Neighborhoods/Housing, Social/Human Services and Education/Job Readiness. ■

Homeless - continued from page 3

Last year, homeless services for the mentally ill was identified as the community's highest unmet need. The Salvation Army Safe Haven will alleviate this problem by providing unconditional shelter and mental health and supportive services. Community Response Teams, comprised of a social worker, a peer mental health assistant, and a driver will respond to a request for intervention when a homeless individual is having difficulties interacting with the community. In addition to HUD's SHP award of \$1.4 Million, the City of Las Vegas has committed \$159,663 of the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to this vital project.

Another high priority addressed through last year's strategy was the continuing need for transitional housing for homeless families, particularly single women with children. Accordingly, HUD awarded funding to the Women's Development Center (WDC) Transitional Housing Program.

The contributions of these projects to meet Las Vegas' needs are invaluable, but the City realizes that this funding is not enough to meet the increasing demand for homeless services throughout the valley. Accordingly, the City has committed \$3.4 million to homeless prevention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing programs during the past year. The City will also continue to cooperate with local government partners and service providers to ensure that the immediate needs of our homeless are addressed, as well as the long-term and self-sufficiency needs of individuals. ■



EOB opens new housing project

The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County (EOB) celebrated the grand opening of its transitional housing project at 415 Adams Avenue with a barbecue cookout. Celebrating are (left to right): Faye Trend, management analyst with the City of Las Vegas' Neighborhood Services Department; James Tyree, director of the EOB of Clark County; Oscar Sharpe, manager of the EOB of Clark County Housing Division; Bill Arent, project development officer with the City's Neighborhood Services Department.

Web Page - continued from page 7

- Business opportunities and how to do business with the City
- Parks and Leisure activities and programs including Senior information.

Our web site is already growing like the Las Vegas Valley itself. New features are being added every day. In a few months, several interactive applications will be added to other pages on the

City's site allowing people to register and pay on-line for Parks classes and apply for a business license from the City's web site.

You can find the City's home page at www.ci.las-vegas.nv.us or visit us through our community partner lasvegas.com. ■

Capital Projects Report

Currently, the center serves over fifty seniors a day. The new facility will allow the center to serve more seniors in Ward 3. Activities offered at the center include:

- Arts and crafts
- Sewing classes
- Exercise classes, including chair exercise and low-impact aerobics
- Health fairs
- Tap dancing classes
- Flower arranging classes
- Computer classes
- AARP 55 Alive
- Personal development clinics
- Casual activities including card and table games
- Daily lunches

The \$2.5 million dollar state-of-the-art project was funded in part by Community Development Block Grant funds (administered by Neighborhood Services Department, Neighborhood Development Division). Block grant funds provided \$1.4 million dollars toward the center.

The Doolittle Senior Center will be supervised by the City of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services. For more information about the center, please call Jerlys Baker at (702) 229-6374. ■

Mayor Jan Jones and Councilman Gary Reese lead the Mardi Gras parade at the Doolittle Senior Center grand opening.



Rehab project revitalizes Vegas Heights area

The City of Las Vegas has developed a Neighborhood Revitalization Program to help rebuild City neighborhoods and create communities of opportunity. The City intends to create visible change with an aggressive program of rehabilitation for owner-occupied residences, rentals and by building new homes on infill lots.

Vegas Heights was selected for the first Neighborhood Revitalization effort. Bordered by Martin Luther King Blvd. to the West, Revere Street to the East, Carey Avenue to the North, and Lake Mead to the South, the area will be enhanced by the incorporation of New Urbanism principles. This means that new construction designs will use porches and front yards to enhance interaction among neighbors and create a feeling of community. Rehabilitated existing homes will also include front



porches where possible.

Patty Jacobs, a rehabilitation specialist assigned to Vegas Heights, states that the City's Neighborhood Development Division currently has six homes being

rehabilitated. She adds that an additional six homes will be put out for rehabilitation bids within the next month.

Continued on page 6

Grants Update

Homeless issues addressed through new community-centered strategy

In 1993 and 1994, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) partnered with Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Denver, Miami, and the San Francisco Bay area to test a new approach to address homelessness—focusing on community-based public/private partnerships by routing funding through *an entire community* rather than project by project. In exchange for federal funding, each community assessed local needs, inventoried resources, identified gaps in services and in housing, and developed strategies to fill those gaps.

Committing an initial amount of \$75 million to the “test” cities, HUD also provided additional funding to communities that met self-determined goals. This new strategy, called the *Continuum of Care*, has proved to be a tremendous success. Since 1994, the Continuum of Care strategy has been the key planning tool used by HUD to ascertain funding for communities across the nation.

The Continuum of Care strategy contains four steps in delivering housing and support services:

- Outreach efforts and assessment—define the need for specific services
- Emergency shelters—must be provided to meet the growing homeless population
- Transitional housing—important for the self-improvement of homeless individuals
- Permanent housing—must be available to provide affordable, safe housing to individuals

Through this strategy, community-wide meetings and workshops were held throughout the year to identify the current needs of the Las Vegas homeless population, the current services available to the homeless population, and the gaps in services which need to be filled by future initiatives. In 1997, HUD rec-

ognized the viability of the Las Vegas Valley strategy by funding the community’s top two priorities: the Salvation Army Safe Haven and Women Development Center’s Transitional Housing Program.

Continued on page 8

CDBG Week celebrated

Every year, HUD celebrates the successes of the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). CDBG represents a federal program funded through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The celebration began with CDBG Week, April 6th - 12th. The City invited Clark County and the cities of North Las Vegas and Henderson to participate in a Community Field Day for children.

Our community field day was a tremendous success; with over 500 children attending. They were entertained by a number of local groups, including the UNLV Dancing Rebels, Metro K-9, and area business and community groups. In addition, Councilman Gary Reese sponsored an Easter Basket giveaway.

Games, activities and prizes were provided for children by local parks



Splash, the Wet-n-Wild mascot, entertains local children at the CDBG Community Field Day event.

and recreation departments. Many area businesses participated with donations of ice cream, snacks and refreshments.

A Box City competition was also held, and over 40 exhibits were submitted by local children. Children designed the displays using recycled materials and depicted Las Vegas in the future. The box cities were a wonderful combination of team work and imagination.

With the 25th anniversary of the CDBG program just around the corner, this fun-filled event will be only one of many more to come. ■

In Brief

PAL Interns

Once again, the time has come to bid our PAL interns good bye and good luck. Every year, the Neighborhood Services Department proudly sponsors Las Vegas high school student interns. This year, the department became a second home to four hard-working students: Ricardo Chinchilla, Larry Gibson, Ken Odom, and Victor Vasquez.

The students are part of a second-year program that aims to give high school junior and seniors realistic, "hands-on" experience needed after graduation.

The program participants report to work one day a week for the school year. During the work day, the interns are exposed to the various issues and projects within Neighborhood Services.



Celebrating the interns' graduation from the PAL program are (left to right) Sharon Segerblom, Neighborhood Services Department director, Ken Odom; Larry Gibson, Ricardo Chinchilla, NSD Deputy Director Morse Arberry Jr.; and Victor Vasquez.

This year's interns were an important part of our day to day operations, and were involved in a number of projects.

We are very proud of these young men, and hope to work with them again in the "real world." ■

New Faces

The Neighborhood Services Department staff has grown. Lucie Melchert has been hired as a Management Analyst and will handle public information and public relations issues for the department.

Lucie is a life long resident of Las

Vegas and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Communications at UNLV. She previously worked for American Media Corporation as a public relations executive. Welcome aboard, Lucie! ■

Attention- all Non-Profits who receive Federal Funds:

If you have not received a copy of the new Subrecipient Administrative

Manual, call the Neighborhood Development Division at (702) 229-2330. ■

Neighborhood Services goes global

People around the world can now stay in touch with the City's Neighborhood Services Department without leaving their computer. The City of Las Vegas recently launched its completely revamped web site including a hefty section on what Neighborhood Services does and how to do business with us.

The City's site is easy to use and contains more than 400 pages of information on everything from the City's trolley schedule to job opportunities in our Department. There are almost 40 forms from the web site including vital application forms for building permits, pet licenses, employment application forms and Neighborhood Association application forms. This feature saves people a trip to our office and other City buildings.

In the Neighborhood Services section (which is found under "Neighborhoods"), people can quickly find information on Neighborhood Associations, the Rapid Response Team, neighborhood cleanups and grants and federal funding opportunities, just to name a few features. The web site will save us and the public valuable time.

Other highlights include:

- City Council and other Board and Commission meetings agendas
- Messages from the Mayor and Councilmen about upcoming events and programs
- Ways to get involved in local government
- Hot topics in City Hall including the latest news on the Valley's growth
- Traffic information

Continued on page 8

Neighborhood News

Reaching out through rehabs

What kind of impact does the City's Single Family Home Rehab Program have on the community? Often, the effects of the program hit close to home. Many homeowners in the rehab program are touched by the hard work and effort put into their homes. At the same time, City employees involved in the program are inspired as well.

Patty Jacobs, a housing rehab specialist, recounts one of her most memorable rehab clients:

"Most requests for housing rehab come from the owners. But occasionally, someone is referred to us because he or she really needs help and a caring neighbor or friend calls to tell us about their sad plight."

One such case was a woman, alone, raising her two great grandchildren, ages 3 and 4. She was struggling, trying to raise her great-grandchildren, after raising her own children and grandchildren. She just did not have the means to fix up her house because she is on a fixed income. A friend of hers called us to tell

us about her situation.

Inspection of the house revealed a need for extensive rehab - from a kitchen and bathroom remodel to painting, flooring, roofing, new heating and air conditioning and even a sewer line replacement.

These improvements were made, and the home's interior looked great. All that was left was the home's exterior. The City of Las Vegas was able to partner with the Christmas in April program, which painted the exterior of her home and repaired the lawn sprinklers.

Today it is hard to believe that it is the same home. The family is so happy with their beautiful "new" home. After the home's rehab, the Neighborhood



This Las Vegas home received extensive interior and exterior rehabilitation.

Services Department presented her with a small white box - a home maintenance kit, filled with useful tips and information on how to maintain her home. She said, "You are wonderful people. I love you all."

For more information on the Single Family Home Rehab Program, please call (702) 229-2330. ■

Vegas Heights - continued from page 3

Faye Trend, project coordinator, has been working on the program for over a year. She believes in involving local residents in the planning process. "We wanted the local residents to have a stake in this," Trend notes. "Local participation in the decision process is key to the success of any revitalization effort."

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program offers financial assistance in various forms for owner-occupied residences. Financial programs include deferred loans, partially deferred loans and

low interest direct loans. Owners of multi-family rental units and small businesses located within the boundaries of Vegas Heights can also benefit from this program.

Rehabilitation of existing homes can be quite extensive, including plumbing, roofing, heating and air conditioning, electric service panels, and mechanical systems.

"Our Department is working with the Department of Leisure Services to upgrade Lubertha Johnson Park and design

an 'entrance statement' sign which will be located on Martin Luther King between Bartlett and Blankenship Avenues," Trend notes.

To date, the Vegas Heights Revitalization efforts are proving to be positive steps towards a vibrant, healthy West Las Vegas.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Vegas Heights Revitalization Program can call the Neighborhood Services Department at 229-2330. ■

Grants Update

Business information center to open

The year 1998 is proving to be an exciting year for the Las Vegas Business Center. Since its opening earlier this year, the Business Center has proven to be an effective and popular center for small business entrepreneurs and consumers. So what else could the center provide that would benefit Las Vegas residents? A Business Information Center!

Business Information Centers (BIC) are set up in urban communities to provide educational and technical assistance needs to new and existing small businesses. Both electronic and on-site counseling resources are provided to all BIC

clients free of charge.

At least one BIC will be located in each state. The Las Vegas Business Center is the proud home to Nevada's first. The Business Information Center is scheduled to open the first part of 1999. For more information on the BIC, please call Peggy Proestos at (702) 638-6371. ■



The Las Vegas Business Center on Stella Lake Drive and Lake Mead will house the first Business Information Center.

What does the Las Vegas Business Center Offer?

The Las Vegas Business Center offers a number of services free of charge to Enterprise Community residents. Some of the services offered are:

- Attorney Mediation
- Job Training/Placement Referrals
- College Loan/Grant Research
- Job Skill/Personal Improvement Workshops
- Small Business Start-up Workshops
- English as a Second Language Classes
- Entertainment Production Training

- Tax Preparation and Bookkeeping
- Business Consulting by the following companies:
 - Small Business Administration
 - Small Business Development Center
 - Clark County Business Development
 - City of Las Vegas Minority Purchasing
 - Nevada Business and Industry
 - University of Las Vegas Manufacturing Assistance Program

...And Other Community-Oriented Companies

- Services Also Offered By:
 - Economic Opportunity Board Microbusiness Development Program
 - Enterprise Community Federal Credit Union

If you are interested in any of the above services, please call Peggy Proestos at the Business Incubator in the Las Vegas Business Center at (702) 638-6371. ■

Business Incubator - continued from page 1

crease a business' survival rate.

Currently, there are 11 companies in the incubator. Each business occupies an office of approximately 200 square feet, and each is provided with all the amenities needed to operate a business, such as a computer, phone,

fax machine, and common conference room and receptionist accommodations. In addition, the Business Center is also home to an "industrial" incubator program, which has one company.

The Business Incubator boasts a won-

derful variety of companies, owned by a diversity of Las Vegas residents. Their services and products are varied, from a commodities broker working extensively on the World Wide Web to a court reporting service. ■